Ministry of Natural Resources
Ontario

FACT SHEET

April 11, 1990

SPANISH RIVER SPECIAL AREA PLAN
Approved by the Regional Directors,
Northeastern and Northern Regions on March 30, 1990

ATTENTION RESOURCE USERS/PARTICIPANTS

You have indicated an interest in planning for future land use and resource management on the upper Spanish River.

Previously, copies of the Planning Options and the Summary of Public Consultation were provided to the public.

The Spanish River Special Area Plan has now been approved and we are providing you with the attached summary.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Chapleau District Office
D. Howell, District Manager
190-192 Cherry Street
Chapleau, Ontario
P0M 1K0

Tel: (705) 864-1710

Sudbury District Office
J. Simpson, District Manager
P.O. Box 3500, Station "A"
Sudbury, Ontario
P3A 4S2

Tel: (705) 522-7823

Timmins/Gogama District Office
B. Blais, A/District Manager
896 Riverside Drive
Timmins, Ontario
P4N 3W2

Tel: (705) 267-7951

Espanola District Office
P. Wyatt, District Manager
P.O. Box 1340
148 Fleming Street
Espanola, Ontario
P0P 1C0

Tel: (705) 869-1330

-30-

Pour renseignments en français, composer le numéro du bureau de district ci-haut mentionné.

THE SPANISH RIVER SPECIAL AREA PLAN

A SUMMARY

FOREWORD

The Spanish River Special Area Plan was prepared in recognition of the upper Spanish River's special outdoor recreation and resource use values. The plan was approved as an amendment to the District Land Use Guidelines for the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), Chapleau, Espanola, Gogama and Sudbury Districts.

Although the upper Spanish River passes through the aforementioned Districts, the river will be treated as a distinct area, a Special Area, to establish a framework for cooperative multiple use.

This special treatment for the upper Spanish was given because of the high level of public interest in the upper Spanish River; a 1984 study by the Provincial Parks Council into provincial park status for the waterway; and, the comprehensive planning process leading to the preparation of the Spanish River Special Area Plan.

The planning intent and land use direction for the Spanish River Special Area is described as a specific and detailed land use area identified in the District Land Use Guidelines.

AREA DESCRIPTION

The Spanish River Special Area includes the East Branch, the West Branch and the main channel of the upper Spanish River. The East Branch starts in the north at the Eastsand River. The West Branch commences at the outlet from Biscotasi Lake in the northwest and joins the East Branch to form the main channel from The Forks, south to Agnew Lake.

The length of the Special Area is 130 kilometres via the East Branch, or 120 kilometres via the West Branch.

The area includes 6500 hectares of land and 2700 hectares of water, encompassing the bed of the river channel and a 200 metre wide strip of land on each bank. The provincial and regional setting of the river is shown on Map 1.

.../2

MAP 1

PROVINCIAL AND REGIONAL SETTING OF THE SPANISH RIVER SPECIAL AREA

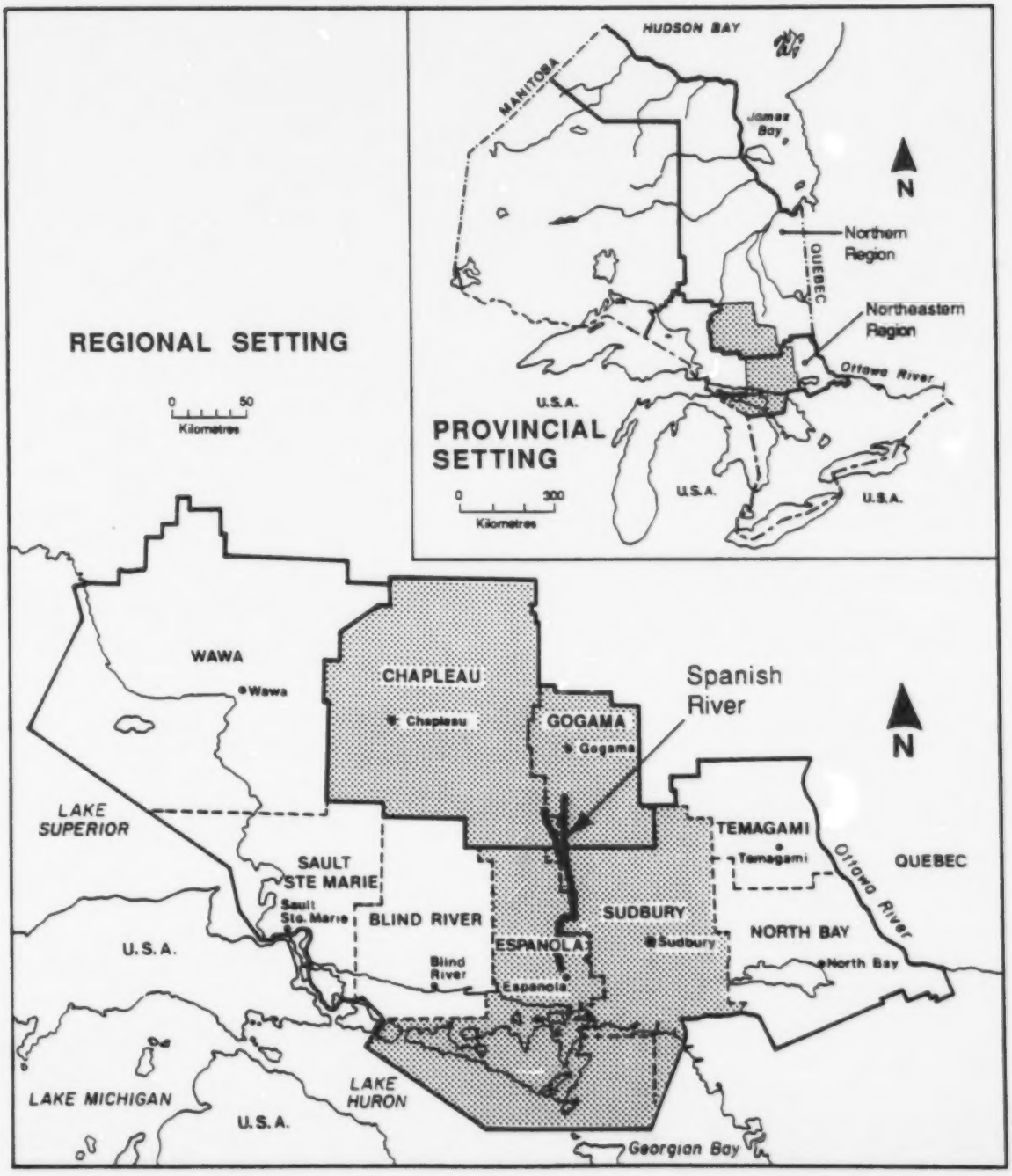
--- District Administrative Boundary

— Northeastern & Northern Administrative Boundaries

-·- Provincial Boundary

--- International Boundary

▒ Districts Containing the Special Area



PLANNING BACKGROUND

During the public review of the Ministry of Natural Resources draft District Land Use Guidelines in 1982, the question of provincial park status for the Spanish River was brought forward as an issue. The Provincial Parks Council was asked to study the matter.

The Provincial Parks Council, in 1984, recommended against park status for the Spanish River; instead, Council members suggested a distinct management area in a cooperative multiple use framework.

The Ministry of Natural Resources responded with full support for this management approach by following the council's recommendations. A plan was prepared to foster integrated resource management.

PLANNING PROCESS

The planning process for the Spanish River Special Area Plan commenced in 1985, in accordance with the Ministry of Natural Resources Guidelines for Land Use Planning.

Six planning stages were applied to guide document preparation and to integrate public consultation into the planning process. The stages in the planning process consisted of:

- Preparation of Terms of Reference;
- Collection of Background Information;
- Setting of Program Objectives and Targets;
- Development of Planning Options;
- Preparation of Draft Plan and,
- Final Plan

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Public consultation was an integral part of the planning process for preparation of the Spanish River Special Area Plan. Of particular note, was the formation of a Public Advisory Committee.

The committee was comprised of a group of public volunteers, acting as a team, who collectively represented the main user groups that have a direct and continuing interest in the management of the Spanish River.

The purpose of the committee was to advise the Regional Director, Northeastern Region, having due regard for local, regional, and provincial factors affecting harmonious multiple-use of the Spanish River.

The following dates illustrate key components of the public consultation process:

- January, 1985 - Public Advisory Committee appointed - representing the following groups: Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitters, Canoe Ontario, INCO, E.B. Eddy Forest Products Ltd., Ontario Trappers Association, Federation of Ontario Naturalists, Ontario Federation of Hunters and Anglers;

- June, 1985 - meeting of Public Advisory Committee to review background information;

- July, 1985 - Public Notice of commencement of the planning process; request for input mailed to 325 people and advertised in English and French newspapers;

- July, 1985 - meeting of Public Advisory Committee to make recommendations concerning planning options;

- December, 1985 - meeting of Public Advisory Committee to review Planning Options Tabloid;

- February, 1986 - 620 Planning Options Tabloids distributed to the public;

- February/March, 1986 - Open Houses held in Espanola, Sudbury and Toronto; 154 total registered attendance;

- 132 public submissions in response to Planning Options Tabloid and Open Houses were received and analyzed;

- June, 1986 - 225 copies of the Public Consultation Summary were distributed to the public;

- December, 1987 - meeting of Public Advisory Committee to make recommendations regarding the draft plan;

- June, 1988 - meeting of Public Advisory Committee to review recommendations regarding the draft plan;

- June, 1989 - meeting of Public Advisory Committee to make recommendations for the final plan.

- April, 1990 - Public Notice of plan approval.

PLANNING INTENT

The focus of the Spanish River Special Area Plan is on protection of the Special Area as an environmental system. The interests of resource users will be a primary concern. Promotion of integrated resource management will ensure that resource harvesting operations are carried out in an environmentally sound manner, while protecting other resource values.

All land use resource management and planning activities in the area must conform with the planning intent and direction contained in the plan. Any new project proposals must also conform. To achieve the planning intent for the Special Area, efforts will be directed to:

- integrating land use activity within the Special Area;
- exercising control over development in the Special Area;
- monitoring development adjacent to the Special Area;
- working cooperatively with interest groups, local residents, and members of the public in general; and,
- liaising regularly with other government agencies.

LAND USE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

The Spanish River Special Area Plan contains very specific and detailed guidelines for land use and resource management in the Spanish River Special Area. The guidelines address:

- Environment
- Local and Traditional Users
- Land Management
- Water Management
- Access Roads
- River Crossings
- Timber Management
- Areas of Concern
- Energy Resources
- Crown Land Recreation
- Fisheries Management
- Mineral Management
- Mineral Aggregates
- Tourism
- Wildlife Management

For each land use or resource management topic, there is a stated objective, which is linked to the overall planning intent for the Special Area. These, individual objectives are articulated through management principles which will direct how land use activities are to be managed to achieve the objective.

Individual strategies, linked to the management principles, identify the specific tasks to be carried out, or procedures to be followed, for resource management programs that influence land use in the Special Area.

The only development permitted is the type which addresses the land use intent and is compatible with the mix of low-intensity activities identified in the plan. New development will, otherwise, be directed to locate outside the Special Area.

Where specific proposals presented for consideration involve changes to the plan, such as, new objectives, or adjustments to permitted uses, management principles or strategies, then the District Land Use Guideline amendment process must be followed.

On the attached land use activity chart specific land use activities are highlighted along with some of the key guidelines.

More detailed information is contained in the complete Plan.

Copies of the Spanish River Special Area Plan are available in English for review at the following MNR offices:

Chapleau District Office
190-192 Cherry Street
Chapleau, Ontario
P0M 1K0

Espanola District Office
P.O. Box 1340
148 Fleming Street
Espanola, Ontario
P0P 1C0

Gogama District Office
P.O. Box 129 Low Avenue
Gogama, Ontario
P0M 1W0

Sudbury District Office
P.O. Box 3500, Station "A"
Sudbury, Ontario
P3A 4S2

Sudbury Regional Office
199 Larch Street
10th Floor
Sudbury, Ontario
P3E 5P9

Natural Resource Library
Whitney Block, Room 4540
99 Wellesley Street, West
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1W3

Timmins Regional Office
247 Algonquin Blvd., W.
Timmins, Ontario
P4N 2R8

Should you wish to obtain an individual copy of the PLAN, please complete and mail the following form to the address indicated.

Please send a copy of the Spanish River Special Area Plan to:

_____ Name/Agency/Organization

_____ Street

_____ City, Province

_____ Postal Code

Return this form to:

Regional Director
Ministry of Natural Resources
Northeastern Region
199 Larch Street, 9th Floor
Sudbury, Ontario
P3E 5P9

Att: Regional Planning Co-Ordinator

land use activity - The Spanish River Special Area

Activity	Acceptable Yes	Acceptable No	Guidelines
ACCESS ROADS		X	Existing roads are permitted. No new access roads, upgrading or expansion of existing, except as shown on Figures 1 and 2. Justification for these roads must come from resource management plans.
AGRICULTURE		X	No suitable Canada Land Inventory Class 2, 3 or 4 lands have been identified for agricultural production.
BAIT FISHING	X		
COMMERCIAL FISHING		X	
COTTAGING		X	Existing, authorized use to continue. No new Crown cottage development.
CROWN LAND RECREATION	X		The Spanish River is a popular canoe route. Backcountry travel will be encouraged.
ENERGY DEVELOPMENT		X	New hydroelectric dams are not permitted in this planning period. When the need can be satisfactorily demonstrated, the Ministry may review the situation by the process for amending the District Land Use Guidelines.
EXISTING AUTHORIZED USES	X		Subject to terms and conditions of land tenure document.
EXPANSIONS AND RELOCATIONS OF AUTHORIZED USES		X	Must be assessed and reviewed by process for amending District Land Use Guidelines.
FORESTRY	X		Timber management in the Special Area will be deferred until the approval of the Class Environmental Assessment for Timber Management, and no timber management will occur before March 31, 1995.
HUNTING	X		
CROWN LAND DISPOSITION		X	Permitted only if compatible with land use and resource management guidelines for the Special Area. Natural science inventory required prior to any land and resource disposition. Must be assessed and reviewed by process for amending District Land Use Guidelines.
MINERAL AGGREGATE EXTRACTION		X	Resource potential to be protected from incompatible land use.

Activity	Acceptable Yes	Acceptable No	Guidelines
MINING	X		Exploration activities will be permitted in the Special Area to the extent that they do not compromise the river's natural environment, remote tourism, back-country opportunities, and the outdoor recreation experience. Mineral exploration of a potentially disruptive nature will be controlled through a work permit. Development and operations on the surface will not be permitted.
PROVINCIAL PARKS		X	The Provincial Parks Council, after review, recommended a Special Area designation instead of Provincial Park status.
RIVER CROSSINGS	X		Only two bridge crossings of the Spanish River may be permitted: one on the East Branch; and, one on the West Branch. East Branch bridge to be temporary, with a short life span, and normally used for transporting work force and equipment. Timber management plan will determine confirmation of the need and timing of construction of the bridges, user controls and restrictions.
RURAL RESIDENTIAL		X	
SPORTFISHING	X		
TOURISM	X		Existing use is permitted, as well as activities not requiring on-site physical development. On-site permanent physical development associated with new commercial tourism ventures, expansion and relocation of existing operations are not permitted. Must be assessed and reviewed by process for amending District Land Use Guidelines.
TRAPPING	X		
WILD RICE HARVESTING		X	No resource capability in Special Area.
WILDLIFE VIEWING	X		To be encouraged as part of Crown Land recreation activity.